

# **SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Texas Health Services Authority

Manfred Sternberg  
President

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- The Texas Legislature created the Texas Health Services Authority (THSA) in 2007 through House Bill 1066.
- The THSA is a public-private partnership, legally structured as a nonprofit corporation, to promote and coordinate the development of electronic health information exchange (HIE) in Texas.
- A 13-member Board of Directors appointed by the Governor of Texas with the advice and consent of the Texas Senate governs the THSA.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND**

- The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) announced the State HIE Cooperative Agreement Program to fund state planning and implementation of electronic health information networks in August 2009.
- The State HIE Cooperative Agreement was funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Texas' allotment through this program is \$28.8 million over four years.
- The program requires states to develop strategic and operational plans to guide the establishment and operation of electronic health information networks.

## **STATE HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM**

- The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) submitted the Texas application to ONC for funding under the State HIE Cooperative Agreement Program in October 2009.
- HHSC is contracting with the THSA to manage a collaborative stakeholder process and develop the strategic and operational plans.

## **STATE HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM**



- ONC awarded Texas \$28.8 million on March 15, 2010 to facilitate HIE in Texas and advance health information technology.
- The award provides \$1 million for planning and \$27.8 million for implementation.
- The HIE strategic and operational plans must be finalized by September 27, 2010. Access to the implementation funding is contingent upon ONC's approval of these plans.

## **FUNDING AWARD**

- The HIE strategic and operational plans must :
  - Governance Model – Describe the process Texas will undertake to convene health care stakeholders, create trust and consensus on an approach for statewide HIE, and provide oversight and accountability of HIE to protect the public interest
  - Environmental Scan – Identify existing HIE capacity, resources, and collaborative opportunities
  - Finance – Provide a business plan that identifies financing strategies for building HIE capacity and sustainability.
  - Legal – Include a policy framework to address privacy and security requirements for system development and use, data sharing agreements, laws, regulations, and multi-state policy harmonization activities. The primary goal will be to identify options for enabling exchange of health information while protecting consumer privacy and security.

## STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANS

- The HIE strategic and operational plans must :
  - Program Coordination – Address coordination with Medicaid, Medicare, other federally funded state health programs, and other ARRA programs, such as regional extension centers, workforce development, and broadband.
  - Technology Infrastructure – Discuss the architecture, hardware, software, applications, network configurations and other technological aspects that physically enable the technical services for HIE in a secure and appropriate manner.
  - Provider Adoption – Identify options to support provider adoption of electronic health records (EHR).
  - Consumer Engagement – Address consumer outreach and educational campaigns, and strategies for ensuring consumer input into the governance model for statewide HIE.

## STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANS



- THSA adopted a planning framework and process that includes the formation of four workgroups – Governance and Finance, Technical Infrastructure, Privacy and Security, and Electronic Health Record (EHR) Adoption and Consumer Engagement – made up of multi-disciplinary, stakeholder experts.
- Workgroups will be responsible for providing the THSA with options for the strategic and operational plans.
- THSA staff solicited workgroup nominations from individuals and stakeholder groups and announced workgroup members in December 2010.
- The workgroups held organizational meetings in January 2010 and will meet monthly during the planning process.

## **COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS**



The THSA workgroups for the planning process will be:

**GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE** - responsible for developing a transparent and accountable governance model, and options on how HIE in Texas should be structured and sustained.

**TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE** - responsible for developing options on what health information should be exchanged and how it should be exchanged in Texas.

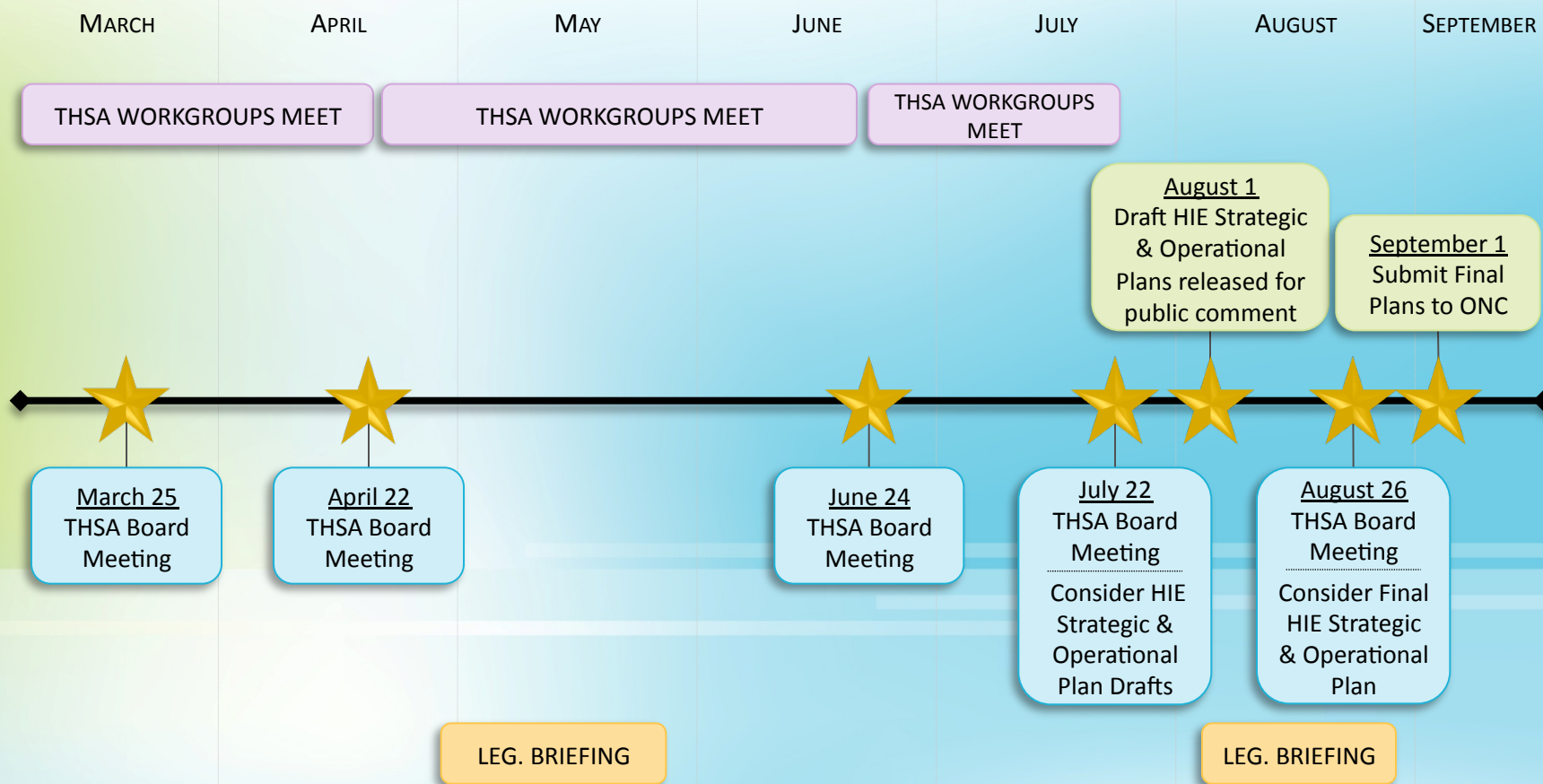
**PRIVACY AND SECURITY** - responsible for developing options on how to secure and ensure the exchange of sensitive health information remains private in alignment with state and federal laws and rules.

**EHR ADOPTION AND CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT** - responsible for developing options on how to promote greater use of EHRs and how electronic health information could be used by consumers.

## THSA WORKGROUPS

- In December 2009, the THSA has released a Request for Qualification (RFQ) for consultant services to assist THSA staff in facilitating the multi-stakeholder collaborative planning process and to assist with the development of the HIE strategic and operational plans in December 2009.
- 28 proposals were submitted in response to the RFQ.
- The THSA narrowed the field down to 3 firms January 2010 and interviewed those firms during the first week of February.
- THSA awarded the consultant services contract to CTG in March 2010.

## **THSA CONSULTANT CONTRACT**



# HIE PLANNING PROCESS TIMELINE